Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 August 2005

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Daily Highlights

- The U.S. Congress has passed sweeping highway and mass transit legislation that will send nearly $300 billion to the states to build and fix roads and create thousands of new jobs. (See item 13)

- USAgNet reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested 119 illegal poultry plant workers in Arkansas, after the conviction of a local resident who pleaded guilty to multiple counts of selling identity documents and Social Security cards. (See item 21)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

Service Industries: **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **Postal and Shipping**

Sustenance and Health: **Agriculture**; **Food**; **Water**; **Public Health**

Federal and State: **Government**; **Emergency Services**

IT and Cyber: **Information Technology and Telecommunications**; **Internet Alert Dashboard**

Other: **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons**; **General**; **DHS Daily Report Contact Information**

Energy Sector

1. *July 29, Associated Press* — **Officials satisfied with nuclear plant safety.** The head of New Hampshire's emergency management services said on Thursday, July 28, he's confident the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant located in Vernon, VT, is safe, but he told its managers to do a better job communicating with state officials and the public when problems arise. There was an equipment failure Monday, July 25, at the nuclear plant, but operators detected the problem immediately and shut down the reactor. The plant was started up again Thursday afternoon. However, miscommunication between Vermont Yankee and officials in New Hampshire led to confusion about what happened and how big the problem was. "I'm not concerned about safety issues at Vermont Yankee," said Bruce Cheney, New Hampshire's director of the Division of Emergency Services. "I am concerned about having better communications and more complete communications with them," said Cheney.
Source: http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/4784747/detail.html?rss =bos&psp=news

2. *July 28, 1010wins.com* — **Indian Point sirens getting backup power.** The owner of the Indian Point nuclear plants, located in Buchanan, NY, said on Thursday, July 28, it will install backup power for the 156 sirens that are meant to warn nearby residents of an emergency. Twenty of the sirens were out of order after a thunderstorm Wednesday, July 27, and the entire system was down for nearly six hours July 19 when power was lost to a signal transmitter. Officials of plant owner Entergy said they would begin the design process by meeting with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state Emergency Management Office, its own security consultants and officials from the four counties within 10 miles of the plant –– Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Putnam.
Source: http://1010wins.com/topstories/local_story_209181654.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *July 28, Associated Press* — **Four hurt in explosions, fire at Texas plant.** A series of explosions rocked a chemical plant Thursday, July 28, and set off a raging fire, injuring four people and sending up a pillar of black smoke that could be seen 30 miles away. Workers at the Valley Solvents & Chemicals plant in Fort Worth, TX, told authorities they heard an explosion and then noticed a fire near a tractor–trailer that had just pulled in to deliver chemicals, said fire Lt. Kent Worley. Company President Bill Davis said late Thursday that there were indications the unloading truck may have sparked the fire. It raged in and around more than a dozen large metal and plastic tanks containing 2,000 to 4,000 gallons of methanol, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, ethanol and other chemicals. Officials said there were no evacuations, but residents in nearby neighborhoods and businesses were told to stay indoors with their windows closed. Those voluntary restrictions were lifted about 6 p.m. (CDT), said Eileen Houston–Stewart, a city spokesperson.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005–07–28–texas–plant–e xplosion_x.htm

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *July 28, Associated Press* — **Defense contractors raise 2005 forecasts.** Rising research and development spending by the U.S. military helped defense contractors post second−quarter profits Thursday, July 28, that beat Wall Street expectations. While spending requests for war and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan have boosted contractors' prospects, companies are benefiting more from increases in ongoing research and development, said Paul Nisbet, an industry analyst with JSA Research. "The programs that have been in effect for years and are getting increased spending are really the programs that are resulting in improved performance for these companies," Nisbet said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2005/07/28/AR2005072801249_pf.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *July 29, Finextra Research* — **Banking systems hit by Mumbai floods.** Torrential rainstorms in Mumbai, India, have affected banking transactions across the country as banks struggle to keep computer systems running. Nearly 740 people have so far died as monsoon rains have swept across Mumbai and triggered mudslides in the region. The downpours have seriously affected banking systems, with power supplies down and back−up facilities submerged underwater. Banks which use Mumbai as a central hub for processing transactions, including Citibank, HSBC, HDFC, ICICI, and the State Bank of India, have experienced disruptions across their national networks. The degree of disruption has varied from bank to bank and region−to−region, with ATMs intermittently operational and core banking systems failing to function. The rainfall is the highest ever recorded in India, with Mumbai receiving half of its average annual total in 12 hours.
Source: http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14044

6. *July 29, Netcraft (UK)* — **Phishers steal trust from eBay sign in pages.** Scammers have exploited a flaw in the eBay Website that allows them to orchestrate phishing attacks using eBay's own Sign In page. Registered users of eBay's popular online auction Website must sign in using a username and password in order to participate in bidding and listing of items. A new style of phishing attack shows scammers exploiting flaws on the Sign In page and on another ancilliary page which results in victims being redirected to the scammer's phishing site after they have logged in. This particular attack starts off like many others, by sending thousands of emails that instruct victims to update their eBay account details by visiting a URL. However, that is where the similarity ends, because the URL in this case actually takes the victim to the genuine eBay Sign In page, hosted on signin.ebay.com. By including special parameters at the end of the URL, the scammer has changed the behavior of the Sign In page so that when a user successfully logs in, they will then be sent to the scammer's phishing site via an open redirect hosted on servlet.ebay.com.
Source: http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2005/07/29/phishers_steal_trust_from_ebay_sign_in_pages.html

7. *July 29, St. Louis Business Journal* — **Missouri officials sets up identity theft hotline.** Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon set up a new hotline to help the thousands of Missouri victims of identity theft. The hotline, which will be operated through the office's consumer protection division, will offer information for victims to help them report identity theft to local law enforcement and financial institutions, as well as other information on protection from identity thieves. The hotline number is 800−392−8222.
Source: http://stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2005/07/25/da ily81.html?jst=b_ln_hl

8. *July 28, Government Technology* — **Banks, law enforcement officials discuss ways to better fight identity theft and consumer fraud.** Nearly 100 representatives of banks and other financial institutions met with law enforcement agencies from all levels of government on Thursday, July 28, to develop improved ways for fighting identity theft and other threats to customer data security. "We're hoping that as a result of [Thursday's] discussions we can develop a strategic partnership between public and private sectors to share information and better use our combined resources to protect consumers from a growing national problem," said Brian Parker, senior vice president of risk management services for Washington Mutual, one of two co−sponsors of the day−long event. Steve Cooley, district attorney for Los Angeles and one of the guest speakers, believes a regional identity theft center composed of law enforcement and representatives of financial institutions would be one way to better coordinate the anti−fraud effort. "We must protect personal identifying information the way we protect other valuable items," he said.
Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/95713

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *July 30, Associated Press* — **Guard troops go active to step up transit safety.** In the wake of the London subway bombings, Governor George E. Pataki on Friday ordered hundreds of National Guard troops to state active duty to increase security at New York City mass transit facilities. Soldiers will work with police and allow more patrolling by the state Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the New York City Police Department. Troops also will guard ferries and rail yards, Pataki said. The National Guard has been used extensively on full−time state active duty to patrol potential terrorist sites since the September 11, 2001, attacks.
Source: http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20050730/3070885.asp

10. *July 30, Associated Press* — **FAA supporting Chicago's $15b plan to expand O'Hare.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has endorsed the Chicago's $15 billion effort to expand O'Hare International Airport and reduce the nation's worst flight delays, but the plan still faces opposition from communities that would be gutted to build new runways and taxiways. Mayor Richard Daley said construction would begin immediately after the FAA gives final approval for the plan, which is expected by September. "When we reduce delays at O'Hare, it will speed up air travel throughout the nation, saving millions of dollars in time and fuel," Daley said. Congestion at delay−prone O'Hare can quickly cause gridlock throughout the US commercial aviation system. But a 440−acre expansion would require the city to buy and raze more than 500 homes, displacing about 2,600 residents, and would require relocation of nearly 200

businesses and a cemetery with 1,300 tombs dating to the 1800s.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/07/30/faa_su
pporting_chicagos_15b_plan_to_expand_ohare/

11. *July 29, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−769: Air Traffic Control: Characteristics and Performance of Selected International Air Navigation Service Providers and Lessons Learned from Their Commercialization (Report).** In the past, governments worldwide owned, operated, and regulated air navigation services, viewing air traffic control as a governmental function. But as nations faced increasing financial strains, many governments decided to shift the responsibility to an independent air navigation service provider (ANSP) that operates as a business. As of March 2005, 38 nations worldwide had commercialized their air navigation services, fundamentally shifting the operational and financial responsibility for providing these services from the national government to an independent commercial authority. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) selected five ANSPs −− in Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom −− to develop, as requested, a descriptive analysis of commercialized ANSPs that illustrated similarities and differences in ownership, length of experience with commercialization, and size and scope of operations. This report addresses the following questions: (1) What are common characteristics of commercialized ANSPs in selected foreign countries? (2) What do available data show about how the safety, cost, and efficiency of air navigation services have changed since commercialization? (3) What are some key lessons learned about the commercialization of air navigation services?
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05769high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−769

12. *July 29, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−801: Border Security: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of Department of Homeland Security's Visa Security Program (Report).** The Homeland Security Act of 2002 required that the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) on−site personnel in Saudi Arabia review all visa applications. The act also authorized the expansion of the Visa Security Program to other embassies and consulates to provide expert advice and training to consular officers, among other things. Given the congressional interest in effective implementation of the Visa Security Program, we assessed (1) the Visa Security Officers' (VSO) activities in Saudi Arabia, and (2) DHS's plans to expand its Visa Security Program to other consular posts overseas. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that the Secretary of Homeland Security (1) develop a strategic plan to guide visa security operations and (2) develop and maintain performance data that demonstrate the impact of the Visa Security Program. In addition, Congress may wish to consider amending section 428(i) of the Homeland Security Act to allow DHS the flexibility to determine the extent to which the VSOs in Saudi Arabia will review applications, based upon the development of a risk−assessment tool. GAO received comments from DHS and State, both of which agreed with this report. DHS stated it was developing a strategic plan and a system to measure program impact, as recommended.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05801high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−801

13. *July 29, Sentinel (PA)* — **Congress approves massive highway bill.** Congress on Friday, July 29, passed sweeping highway and mass transit legislation that will send nearly $300 billion to

the states to build and fix roads, create thousands of new jobs and –– lawmakers hope –– save lives and cut hours wasted in traffic jams. The 91–4 vote in the Senate came hours after the House approved the measure, 412–8. Afterward, lawmakers streamed out of the Capitol, heading home for their summer break carrying promises of new highway and bridge projects, rail and bus facilities, and bike paths and recreational trails they had secured for their states and districts. President Bush, in a statement, promised to sign the bill that "will strengthen and modernize the transportation networks vital to America's continued economic growth." Under the legislation, each state would receive a share of federal highway funding depending on their contributions –– through the federal gas tax –– to the Highway Trust Fund. The bill, running more than 1,000 pages, also specifies thousands of projects requested by individual members. The projects range from two bridges in Alaska, one named for House Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young, R–AK, funded at more than $450 million, to $72,000 for a bus in Cornwall, NY.

Information on the bill, H.R. 3, may be found at http://www.thomas.loc.gov/
Source: http://www.cumberlink.com/articles/2005/07/30/news/news05.tx t

14. *July 29, Transportation Security Administration* — **Ten new explosives detection canine teams to protect against terrorism.** Ten new explosives detection canine teams joined the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program following graduation today at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. The canine teams are being assigned to airports in San Francisco; Miami; Boston; Los Angeles; Indianapolis; Cincinnati; Nashville, TN; El Paso, TX; Tampa, FL; and Washington DC. During the ten–week training program, law enforcement officers assigned to various airports are provided instruction on handler skills, explosives safety, and safe handling and accountability of explosives canine training aids. The teams spent much of their time searching for explosives in specialized indoor and outdoor training areas that resemble the airport environment, including aircraft searches where teams check cockpits, cabins and overhead storage bins. The teams also practice searching warehouses, luggage and a parking lot filled with cars, trucks, vans and buses. Because canine teams combine excellent mobility with reliable detection rates, their use has evolved to include searching areas in response to bomb threats associated with airport terminals and aircraft, luggage, cargo and vehicles, as well as serving as a proven deterrent to would–be terrorists and criminals.
Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198 0151dfa

15. *July 28, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–05–922T: Mass Transit: Preliminary Views on Options for Additional Fiscal Oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Testimony).** In recent years, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has faced serious financial and budgetary problems as well as continuing challenges related to the safety and reliability of its transit services. At the same time, ridership is at an all time high, and WMATA continues to provide critical services and considerable benefits to the Washington region and to the federal government. This statement discusses (1) WMATA's responsibilities for serving the interests of the federal government, including the agency's role in transporting federal employees and visitors to the nation's capital and in supporting homeland security for the Washington metropolitan region; (2) the current funding challenges facing WMATA and the options proposed to address these challenges; (3) preliminary information on some of the entities that currently provide oversight of WMATA and the focus of their recent reviews; and (4) some considerations and options in instituting

spending safeguards and oversight of any additional federal assistance provided to WMATA, should Congress decide to provide such assistance. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) discussed this testimony with WMATA and FTA officials, who provided comments and additional information that GAO incorporated as appropriate.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05922thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−922T

16. *July 28, USA TODAY* — **Airport chiefs: Proposed screener cuts a bad idea.** Airline passengers will face longer airport security lines starting this fall if Congress goes through with plans to cut up to 13% of the nation's checkpoint screeners, a top Transportation Security Administration (TSA) official said Thursday, July 28. Thomas Blank, TSA's acting deputy administrator, said the Department of Homeland Security is fighting a Senate spending measure that would cut 6,000 of the agency's 45,000 screeners. Blank told the panel that "very crowded airport lobbies are a security threat" because so many people could be an inviting target for terrorists. "There's no one who's going to get through a checkpoint in 10 minutes," William DeCota, aviation director at Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports, said afterward.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005−07−28−tsa−screen ers_x.htm

17. *June 29, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−677: Transportation Security Administration: Clear Policies and Oversight Needed for Designation of Sensitive Security Information (Report).** Concerns have arisen about whether the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is applying the Sensitive Security Information (SSI) designation consistently and appropriately. SSI is one category of "sensitive but unclassified" information— information generally restricted from public disclosure but that is not classified. GAO determined (1) TSA's SSI designation and removal procedures, (2) TSA's internal control procedures in place to ensure that it consistently complies with laws and regulations governing the SSI process and oversight thereof, and (3) TSA's training to its staff that designate SSI. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that the Secretary of Homeland Security direct TSA to establish clear guidance and procedures for using the TSA regulations to determine what constitutes SSI; establish clear responsibility for the identification and designation of SSI information; establish internal controls monitoring compliance with its SSI regulations, policies, and procedures, and communicate that responsibility for implementing the controls throughout TSA; and provide specialized training to those making SSI designations on how information is to be identified and evaluated for SSI status. The Department of Homeland Security generally concurred with our recommendations.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05677high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−677

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *July 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−820: Improving Ratemaking Data Quality through Postal Service Actions and Postal Reform Legislation (Report).** In 1999, the congressionally requested Data Quality Study found opportunities to improve ratemaking data quality. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) agreed to make improvements, but concerns remained that it is still unclear, from an overall perspective, what actions USPS has taken to

improve data quality. Ratemaking data quality has also factored into congressional deliberations to reform postal laws. Thus, questions remain about USPS's actions to improve ratemaking data quality and how proposed legislation will address long–standing issues in this area. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to describe key USPS actions that were responsive to the Study to improve the quality of ratemaking data and discuss possible implications of postal reform legislation for ratemaking data quality. In its comments, USPS disagreed with GAO's finding on the need to reform the ratemaking structure. USPS also differed on GAO's finding that the legislation would likely lead to improving ratemaking data quality. It said "breakthrough improvements" would be unlikely without a significant increase in costs. GAO believes reform of the ratemaking structure is needed, but the outcome would depend on its implementation. Further, the legislative changes would likely lead to data quality improvements over time and at some cost.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05820high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05820.pdf

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Agriculture Sector

19. *July 29, Associated Press* — **Wheat scab impact could be severe.** The worst disease outbreak in more than a decade could force wheat farmers in North Dakota and Minnesota to change their planting plans next year, agriculture experts say. Record wet weather has spawned a heavy infestation of fusarium head blight, known as scab, a fungal disease that affects small grain crops. Farmers had been able to dodge the disease for the last several years. The exact extent of the damage won't be known until yields are measured in the fall. But some farmers might shy away from the crop next year, said Marcia McMullen, plant pathologist at North Dakota State University. Many wheat growers, perhaps thinking the scab problems were over, have chosen in recent years to plant varieties that promise higher yields but pose a greater risk to scab.
Source: http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/12253484.h tm

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Food Sector

20. *July 29, Associated Press* — **U.S. bans a poultry drug.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Thursday, July 28, that it was banning the use of the antibiotic Baytril in poultry because of concerns that it could lead to antibiotic–resistant infections in people. The agency's commissioner, Lester M. Crawford, ordered that approval for use of the drug, known generically as enrofloxacin, be withdrawn effective September 12. Baytril, manufactured by Bayer of Leverkusen, Germany, is in the same family as the popular drug Cipro, which is used in humans. Crawford cited particular concerns about campylobacter bacteria, a growing source of serious illness in humans. Antibiotics used to treat the bacteria can be less effective if the germ has already developed resistance to Baytril, the FDA said. Campylobacter is commonly found in the intestinal tracts of turkeys and chickens, where it does not generally cause illness, Crawford said in his order. Use of enrofloxacin in poultry does not eliminate campylobacter from the birds, but instead results in the development of bacteria resistant to this type of drug,

he said. Resistant bacteria may be present in poultry sold at retail outlets. Crawford noted that since the drug was introduced for poultry in the 1990's, the proportion of resistant campylobacter infections in humans has risen significantly.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/29/national/29fda.html?oref=l ogin

21. *July 29, USAgNet* — **Illegal aliens found in Arkansas poultry plant.** Agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency raided a poultry plant in Arkadelphia, AR, arresting 119 plant workers the agency said were illegal aliens, the Siftings Herald News has reported. Ronnie Farnam, manager of the Petit Jean Poultry operation, was quoted as saying the company had to cut production by about 70 percent due to the loss of workers, but he believes many of the workers actually have the necessary paperwork to stay in the United States. The arrests were made as a result of the conviction of a local resident who pleaded guilty to multiple counts of selling identity documents and Social Security cards, a release from the immigration agency stated.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story−national.cfm?Id=764&yr=2005

22. *July 28, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Chicken products recalled.** Ilyssa Manufacturing Corporation, a Brooklyn, NY, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 3,200 pounds of ready−to−eat chicken products that may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Thursday, July 28. The products were distributed to retail establishments in Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, Washington, DC. The problem was discovered through a FSIS sampling program. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Consumption of food contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.
Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_031_2005_relea se/index.asp

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Water Sector

23. *July 29, Water Tech News Daily* — **Groundwater recharge program passed by U.S. House.** The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill that will authorize $15 million in federal funding for water reclamation and distribution by California's Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA). The bill, the Water Resources Development Act (HR 2864), was passed by a 406−14 vote and is expected to move to the Senate prior to Congress' August recess. In May, BBARWA filed a Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that announced the start of the environmental review process for the recycled water and groundwater recharge programs. BBARWA is proposing to adopt and implement a Recycled Water Master Plan, which includes groundwater recharge and recycled water. Recycled water will be considered for irrigation and natural uses, as well as industrial and commercial business.
BBARWA: http://www.bigbearwatersolutions.org/
Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=56255

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Public Health Sector

24. *July 31, Associated Press* — **China bans media from covering outbreak.** Chinese authorities have banned local reporters from visiting areas where an outbreak of a pig–borne disease has killed 34 farmers, ordering newspapers to use dispatches from the state news agency, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Sunday, July 31. A total of 174 confirmed or suspected cases have been linked to the bacteria streptococcus suis in China's southwestern Sichuan province, where farmers who handled or butchered infected pigs have been sickened in dozens of villages and towns. Symptoms include nausea, fever, vomiting, and bleeding under the skin. Sichuan authorities have ordered local journalists to stay away from locations where the disease surfaced, and told newspapers to instead carry stories as issued by the official Xinhua News Agency, including the headline, Hong Kong's Ming Pao Daily News reported. Former British colony Hong Kong, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997, isn't subject to China's media controls under a special autonomy arrangement. Much of the information about the disease has been filtering out through Hong Kong, which is briefed by China about health threats. The first cases of the pig–borne disease outbreak appeared in the city of Ziyang and elsewhere in Sichuan. The first case outside the province was reported Saturday, July 30, in Guangdong, a southern Chinese province neighboring Hong Kong. Hong Kong has also reported 11 cases of the disease since May 2004, but it wasn't clear if they were related to the Sichuan outbreak.
Source: http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/living/health/12267590. htm

25. *July 29, Associated Press* — **Bird flu kills fowl in Siberia.** Hundreds of fowl in Siberia have died of the same strain of bird flu that has infected humans throughout Asia, the Russian government said Friday, July 29. No human infections have been reported from the Siberian outbreak, Russia's Agriculture Ministry said in the brief statement identifying the virus as avian flu type H5N1. Since 2003, the H5N1 strain has killed at least 57 people in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia, which reported its first three human deaths this month. The outbreak in Russia's Novosibirsk region in central Siberia apparently started about two weeks ago when large numbers of chicken, geese, ducks and turkeys began dying. Officials say that all dead or infected birds were incinerated, but it was unclear whether that would effectively stop the virus from spreading. Earlier this week, Russia's chief government epidemiologist, Gennady Onishchenko, said the appearance of the virus in Russia could be due to migrating birds that rest on the Siberian region's lakes.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/content/article/2005/07/29/AR2005072900734_pf.html

26. *July 29, Associated Press* — **Angola begins polio vaccination campaign.** Angolan authorities started a three–day effort to vaccinate an estimated five million children against polio Friday, July 29, following the country's first cases of the disease since 2001. Medical staff fanned out across the southwest African nation to administer vaccinations to all children under five, the Health Ministry said. Within the space of 10 days early this month two cases were diagnosed 250 miles apart, prompting fears the disease could be spreading. Both cases were tied to a strain of the virus found in India. The World Health Organization (WHO) is investigating how it made its way to southwest Africa. The WHO hopes to meet a deadline to stamp out polio in the world by year's end, but outbreaks in places like Angola, Nigeria, and Indonesia are worrying. Public health and sanitary structures in Angola are weak after a protracted civil war which

ended in 2002.
Source: http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/world/ 12254955.htm

27. *July 28, Agence France Presse* — **Singapore company releases bird flu diagnosis kit.** A Singapore company has launched a bird flu diagnosis kit which it said would be able to detect the deadly disease in under four hours rather than the seven days using current methods. Veredus Laboratories said its Avian Influenza (H5N1) Diagnostic Kit would offer a major boost in the battle to combat the disease, which has killed almost 60 people in Southeast Asia since 2003. Veredus chief executive officer Rosemary Tan said the kit required just a nasal swab from a person, a sample of the fluid from a chicken or bird egg, or a sample of an organ of a bird. Tan said the current "gold standard" viral culture tests which the World Health Organization recommends took seven to 10 days to get a result. Another advantage was that the kit can detect the disease within two to five days of an infection, rather than seven using current methods, according to Tan. Tan said trials had been done using chickens and eggs in Malaysia and Vietnam, although a trial had yet to be completed on a human sample.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050728/hl_afp/healthflusingapo re_050728153716;_ylt=AjY.UTuPSUk7cCpCMR3MHR.JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDM TBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMlJVRPUCUl

28. *July 28, Associated Press* — **Tests show more hamsters have virus.** Four more hamsters from an Ohio pet distribution center have tested positive for a virus blamed in the deaths of three New England organ recipients, the state agriculture department said Thursday, July 28. The results mean that the center's 4,000 small pets that include hamsters, mice, and gerbils will be killed to prevent the virus from spreading, said LeeAnne Mizer, a spokesperson for the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Last week, agriculture officials said that a pet hamster linked to the three deaths came from Mid–South Distributors of Ohio, leading to a quarantine and further testing of all the animals. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention traced the hamster's origin to the center in Ohio, which sends hamsters and other "pocket pets" to stores throughout the East Coast. A doctor at a Rhode Island Hospital discovered the infection in April when two of her kidney transplant patients developed flu–like symptoms. One of the patients died. Two patients in Massachusetts –– one received a liver and the other received two lungs –– also died within a few weeks of their transplants, according to the Rhode Island Department of Health. The virus, lymphocytic choriomeningitis, or LCMV, is uncommon and rarely fatal to humans, usually producing flu–like symptoms. It can be dangerous, though, to anyone with a weak immune system.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050728/ap_on_he_me/transplant_d eaths;_ylt=AqA3cVEL80rKMMOGDmYnOUNZ24cA;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9 mBHNlYwMlJVRPUCUl

29. *July 28, Arizona Republic* — **Impostor nurses working in Arizona.** The number of people caught posing as nurses in Arizona has doubled over the past two years and continues to rise in the midst of a national nursing shortage. Impostor nurses are applying for jobs all over the state, from a senior–living home in Tucson to a Phoenix hospital. Some impostors have no nursing credentials. Others overstate their credentials. The potential for harm is significant, say nursing managers as nurses provide critical care. In 2001 and 2002, the Arizona State Board of Nursing, the organization that verifies nurse licenses, found seven impostor nurses each year. In 2003, there were 14. Last year the total was 29. For this year, as of Wednesday, July 28, there have

been 12 impostors. This isn't just a problem in Arizona. It has happened in other states, including New York and Maryland. The typical impostor has some previous health care education or experience, but the license may have been revoked or only valid in another state. In most cases, impostor nurses are faking documents or credentials to land jobs.
Source: http://www.azcentral.com/health/news/articles/0728imposter28 .html

Government Sector

30. *June 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−05−673: Courthouse Construction: Information on Project Cost and Size Changes Would Help to Enhance Oversight (Report).** The General Services Administration (GSA) and the federal judiciary are in the midst of a multibillion−dollar courthouse construction initiative aimed at addressing the housing needs of federal district courts and related agencies. From fiscal year 1993 through fiscal year 2005, Congress appropriated approximately $4.5 billion for 78 courthouse construction projects. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) (1) compared estimated and actual costs for recently completed courthouse projects and determined what information GSA provided to Congress on changes to proposed courthouse projects, (2) identified factors that contributed to differences between the estimated and actual costs of seven projects selected for detailed review, and (3) identified strategies that were used to help control the costs of the seven selected projects. To improve the usefulness of the information on courthouse construction projects that GSA provides to Congress, GAO recommends that GSA, when requesting funding for those projects, identify and explain changes in estimated costs and building size from the information provided to Congress in prior project prospectuses or fact sheets. GSA concurred with our recommendation.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05673high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−05−673

Emergency Services Sector

31. *July 31, North Platte Telegraph (NE)* — **Area volunteers train for emergency.** Community Emergency Response Team volunteers in North Platte, NE, received 21 hours of training this weekend in the following areas: disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operation, light search and rescue operations, team operations, personal readiness and equipment and terrorism recognition. During the training they responded to five scenarios. Some were live while others were visual where the volunteers explained their actions after viewing a picture of a disaster. Shirleen Smith is the public health director from North Platte and she is one of two people who will receive the call requesting the CERT. "Team members will first help themselves and their families," she said. "Then the team will rally at a pre−determined site and help secure the disaster area." Depending on the guidelines of their training, the CERT members can self−activate after a natural disaster but would usually wait to be called, according to Dobesh−DeGraff. According to information from the Omaha CERT, teams are trained to aid during the first 72 hours of a disaster.

Source: http://www.nptelegraph.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14953453&BRD =377&PAG=461&dept_id=531813&rfi=6

32. *July 29, The Paris News (TX)* — **Texas officials evaluate terrorist drill.** Officials in Paris and Lamar County, Texas, responded calmly and capably to a series of challenges presented them during an exercise on a hypothetical terrorist attack Tuesday, July 26, and Wednesday which involved about 50 local officials. Randy Reinisch, exercise coordinator for a drill led by the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, said local officials did well across the board in responding to a series of explosions, derailments, fires, exposure to smallpox and other make−believe terrorist events. Deputy Fire Chief Steve Walters said problems surfaced because of different communications systems among various groups in the county. Anyone should be able to pick up equipment from some other group in the county and be knowledgeable about how to use it, he said. A Texas Department of Public Safety official said portable facsimile machines would have come in handy and also mentioned the need for large maps of the county and every community — "something you can write on, erase and use again." He said updated lists of state and local agencies, including personnel rosters, also would be useful in knowing who was available and how to reach them.
Source: http://web.theparisnews.com/story.lasso?wcd=21815

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *July 29, Secunia* — **PHPmyGallery "confdir" file inclusion vulnerability.** A vulnerability has ben discovered in PHPmyGallery which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. Input passed to the "confdir" parameter in "common−tpl−vars.php" isn't properly verified, before it is used to include files. This can be exploited to include arbitrary files from external and local resources. Successful exploitation requires that "register_globals" is enabled. The vulnerability has been reported in version 1.5 beta and prior (latest affected stable version is 0.995). The vendor recommends restricting access to the "_conf" directory. The vulnerability will reportedly be fixed in the upcoming 1.5 beta 2 version.
Source: http://secunia.com/advisories/16260/

34. *July 29, Secunia* — **Novell eDirectory NMAS password challenge bypass.** A security issue has been reported in Novell eDirectory, which can be exploited by malicious people to bypass certain security restrictions. The problem is caused due to an error in the NMAS (Novell Modular Authentication Service) component in the Forgotten Password portal. This makes it possible to change a user's password without answering the challenge question. Users should update to NMAS version 2.3.8.
Original Advisory and patch:http://support.novell.com/cgi−bin/search/searchtid.cgi ?/2971485.htm
Source: http://secunia.com/advisories/16267/

35. *July 29, SecurityFocus* — **Opera Web browser content−disposition header download dialog file extension spoofing vulnerability.** Opera Web Browser is prone to a vulnerability that can

allow remote attackers to spoof file extensions through the download dialog. An attacker may exploit this issue by crafting a malformed HTTP 'Content−Disposition' header that spoofs file extensions to trick vulnerable users into opening and executing a malicious file. Opera Web Browser versions prior to 8.02 are affected by this issue.
The vendor has released Opera Web Browser 8.02 to address this issue:
http://www.opera.com/download/
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14402/info

36. *July 28, FrSirt* — **MySQL Eventum PEAR XML_RPC remote code execution vulnerability.** A vulnerability was identified in MySQL Eventum, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to an input validation error in the PEAR XML_RPC library when processing specially crafted XML documents, which could be exploited by attackers to compromise a vulnerable system. MySQL Eventum version 1.5.4 and prior are affected.
Users should upgrade to MySQL Eventum version 1.5.5:
http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/other/eventum/index.html
Source: http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1250

37. *July 28, FrSirt* — **FileZilla Server Zlib library remote buffer overflow vulnerability.** A vulnerability was identified in FileZilla Server, which could be exploited by remote attackers to cause a denial of service or execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to a buffer overflow error in the Zlib library when decompressing specially crafted data streams, which could be exploited, via a malformed stream embedded within network communication, to execute arbitrary commands. The vendor has stated that remote code execution was not possible since zlib was compiled with enabled buffer overflow protection. FileZilla Server versions prior to 0.9.9 are affected.
Users should upgrade to FileZilla Server version 0.9.9 :
http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=21558& package_id=21737
Source: http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1249

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US−CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US−CERT Operations Center Synopsis: A presentation at Defcon entitled "Live penetration Test of the Backbone" was scheduled to include use of an exploit disclosed by Michael Lynn earlier this week. The exploit is NOT the weak version demo'd by Lynn, but a fully working version that is capable of re−routing traffic, man in the middle and / or dropping the router. EFF lawyers toned down the presentation to avoid ISS and/or Cisco lawsuits. Analysis: There is an exploit. It will fall into the wrong hands. Prepare your Networks.

RECOMENADATIONS AND COUNTERMEASURES If your network doesn't need IPv6, disable it. This will eliminate exposure to this vulnerability. On a router which supports IPv6, disable it by issuing the command "no ipv6 enable" and "no ipv6 address" on each interface.

On those systems that do require IPv6 capabilities check the Cisco advisory information to determine vulnerability and countermeasures.
http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco−sa−20050729−ipv6. shtml

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (−−−), 1433 (ms−sql−s), 445 (microsoft−ds), 27015 (halflife), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios−ssn), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 4672 (eMule), 1434 (ms−sql−m)

Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
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General Sector

38. *July 30, WorldNetDaily* — **Gang war shuts down U.S. consulate.** The U.S. government is shutting down temporarily its consulate in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, citing violence in a drug−cartel turf war that includes "unusually advanced weaponry" including rocket−propelled grenades. U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza said gangland battle involving the weapons led to the decision to close the consulate for all but emergency services for one week. "I have made this decision so that we can assess the security situation for our employees, American travelers to the region, and visitors to the consulate," said Garza, who warned that violence in Nuevo Laredo, just across the border from Laredo, TX, was a danger to U.S. citizens. "We will be gauging what should be a swift and certain response from the government of Mexico to bring this situation under control," said Garza. A decision on whether to re−open the consulate will be made a week from Monday, August 1, when the closure starts. The clash is said to be part of a battle between drug cartels for control of the underworld of Nuevo Laredo and thus access to coveted smuggling routes for sneaking cocaine and marijuana into South Texas by hiding it among otherwise legitimate commercial traffic.
Source: http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=45526

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